

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

WAYNE A. PORRETTI,

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

LANCE J. HENDRON,

Defendant(s).

Case No. 2:15-cv-00584-GMN-NJK

**ORDER AND
REPORT & RECOMMENDATION**

(Docket Nos. 2, 7)

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff Wayne Porretti's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*. Docket No. 2. Plaintiff is a prisoner proceeding in this action *pro se*. This proceeding was referred to this court by Local Rule IB 1-9.

I. *In Forma Pauperis* Application

Plaintiff has submitted the affidavit required by § 1915(a) showing an inability to prepay fees and costs or give security for them. Docket No. 2. Accordingly, the request to proceed *in forma pauperis* will be granted pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). Plaintiff must pay an initial partial filing fee of the greater of twenty percent of the average monthly deposits or twenty percent of the average monthly balance of his account for the six months immediately preceding the commencement of this action. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). Plaintiff's average monthly balance is \$00.00, and his average monthly deposit is \$00.00. Therefore, Plaintiff's initial partial filing fee would be \$00.02. In light of the *de minimus* nature of the initial partial filing fee, the Court will not require it to be made at this time.

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...

1 Nonetheless, Plaintiff must make installment payments to the extent required by 28 U.S.C.
2 § 1915(b)(2). To that end, Clark County Detention Center shall forward to the Clerk of the United States
3 District Court, District of Nevada, twenty percent of the preceding month's deposits to Plaintiff's inmate
4 trust account (in the months that the account exceeds \$10.00) until the full \$350 filing fee has been paid
5 for this action. The Clerk of the Court shall send a copy of this Order to the Finance Division of the Clerk's
6 Office. The Clerk shall also send a copy of this Order to the attention of the inmate accounts department
7 at Clark County Detention Center, 330 South Casino Center, Las Vegas, NV 89101.

8 **II. Screening the Complaint**

9 Upon granting a request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a court must additionally screen a complaint
10 pursuant to § 1915(a). Federal courts are given the authority to dismiss a case if the action is legally
11 “frivolous or malicious,” fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief
12 from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). When a court dismisses a
13 complaint under § 1915(a), the plaintiff should be given leave to amend the complaint with directions as
14 to curing its deficiencies, unless it is clear from the face of the complaint that the deficiencies could not be
15 cured by amendment. *See Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995).

16 Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides for dismissal of a complaint for
17 failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Review under Rule 12(b)(6) is essentially a ruling
18 on a question of law. *See Chappel v. Laboratory Corp. of America*, 232 F.3d 719, 723 (9th Cir. 2000). A
19 properly pled complaint must provide a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is
20 entitled to relief. Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2); *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007).
21 Although Rule 8 does not require detailed factual allegations, it demands “more than labels and
22 conclusions” or a “formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S.
23 662, 678 (2009) (*citing Papasan v. Allain*, 478 U.S. 265, 286 (1986)). The court must accept as true all
24 well-pled factual allegations contained in the complaint, but the same requirement does not apply to legal
25 conclusions. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 679. Mere recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported only by
26 conclusory allegations, do not suffice. *Id.* at 678. Secondly, where the claims in the complaint have not
27 crossed the line from plausible to conceivable, the complaint should be dismissed. *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at
28 570. Allegations of a *pro se* complaint are held to less stringent standards than formal pleading drafted by

lawyers. *Hebbe v. Pliler*, 627 F.3d 338, 342 & n.7 (9th Cir. 2010) (finding that liberal construction of *pro se* pleadings is required after *Twombly* and *Iqbal*).

Plaintiff attempts to state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, challenging whether he received effective assistance of counsel in state court. *See* Docket No. 1, at 4 (“My constitutional right to assistance of counsel was hindered . . .”). Plaintiff has alleged these same or similar facts in a previous suit in this court, which was dismissed with prejudice. *See Porretti v. Hendron*, No. 2:14-cv-02133-RCJ-VCF, 2015 WL 268787, at *1 (D. Nev. Jan. 20, 2015); Docket No. 1, at 6-7; Docket No. 6. It is well settled that court-appointed defense counsel are not acting under color of law for § 1983 purposes. *See, e.g., Polk County v. Dodson*, 454 U.S. 312, 318 n. 7 (1981) (noting that a private attorney, even one appointed by the court, does not act under the color of state law for purposes of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 when performing the traditional role of an attorney). Therefore, because Plaintiff’s attorney was not acting under color of state law, Plaintiff cannot state a claim against him under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

III. Conclusion

The Court finds that Plaintiff cannot state a claim against him under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and therefore recommends that the Complaint be dismissed with prejudice as it is clear from the face of the complaint that the deficiencies cannot be cured by amendment.

Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. Plaintiff’s Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Docket No. 2) is **GRANTED**. Plaintiff shall not be required to pre-pay the full filing fee.
2. Plaintiff is permitted to maintain this action to conclusion without the necessity of prepayment of any additional fees or costs or the giving of a security therefor. This Order granting leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* shall not extend to the issuance of subpoenas at government expense.
3. The Clerk of the Court shall file the Complaint.
4. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2), the Clark County Detention Center shall forward to the Clerk of the United States District Court, District of Nevada, twenty percent of the preceding month’s deposits to Plaintiff’s inmate trust account (in the months that the

1 account exceeds \$10.00) until the full \$350 filing fee has been paid for this action. The
2 Clerk of the Court shall send a copy of this Order to the Finance Division of the Clerk's
3 Office. The Clerk shall also send a copy of this Order to the attention of the inmate
4 accounts department at Clark County Detention Center, 330 South Casino Center, Las
5 Vegas, NV 89101.

- 6 5. Plaintiff's second Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Docket No. 7) is **DENIED**
7 as moot.

8 **RECOMMENDATION**

9 **IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED** that Plaintiff's Complaint be **dismissed with prejudice**
10 because Plaintiff cannot state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and it is clear from the face of the complaint
11 that the deficiencies cannot be cured by amendment.

12
13 **NOTICE**

14 Pursuant to Local Rule IB 3-2 **any objection to this Report and Recommendation must be in**
15 **writing and filed with the Clerk of the Court within 14 days of service of this document.** The
16 Supreme Court has held that the courts of appeal may determine that an appeal has been waived due to
17 the failure to file objections within the specified time. *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 142 (1985). This
18 circuit has also held that (1) failure to file objections within the specified time and (2) failure to
19 properly address and brief the objectionable issues waives the right to appeal the District Court's order
20 and/or appeal factual issues from the order of the District Court. *Martinez v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d 1153, 1157
21 (9th Cir. 1991); *Britt v. Simi Valley United Sch. Dist.*, 708 F.2d 452, 454 (9th Cir. 1983).

22 Dated: July 24, 2015
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26 _____
27 Nancy J. Koppe
28 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE